

In the Coachella Valley the most rapidly growing species of tree is a North African tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*). It makes so remarkable a growth there that trees 2½ years old have a girth of 3 feet a foot above the ground. Dr. Trabut sends with the seed of this species (No. 44554) the information that a mite (acarian) in the Sahara produces galls on the tree which contain as high as 45 per cent of pyrogallic tannin; and the suggestion of the use of this remarkable tree as a source of tannin is perhaps allowable.

Though the parkways are often lined with what is called *Catalpa bungei*, in reality a form of *C. bignonioides*, the true *C. bungei* is a very rare tree in this country. Mr. Frank N. Meyer pointed out some years ago that it had unusual promise as a timber tree for the semi-arid regions of the Southwest along irrigating ditches. It grows to a height of 100 feet; its timber resembles walnut and is in great demand for table tops and furniture because of its nonwarping character. It is extensively planted by the Chinese. (No. 44664.)

Without raising the question of the landscape value of the common *Casuarina equisetifolia*, which has been planted by millions along the roadways of southern Florida, the doubtful hardness of that species as contrasted with at least one of the other species (*C. cunninghamiana*) has made it advisable to secure the other members of this genus, and No. 44909 (*C. stricta*) and No. 44532 (*C. cunninghamiana*) are recorded in this inventory. If they prove to be hardier than *C. equisetifolia*, a good deal will be gained.

There seems to be some advantage in the use of certain kinds of melons in the making of preserves, especially types which have rinds containing large amounts of pectose. The Mankataan melon of Natal, *Citrullus vulgaris* (No. 44842), which will keep six months and is used extensively in Cape Colony for preserving, is worth the attention of housekeepers.

So many valuable grasses have come from South Africa and Australia that a species on which sheep pasture at altitudes of 6,000 feet near Pretoria, *Panicum serratum* (No. 44518), and the meadow rice-grass of Australia and New Zealand, *Microlaena stipoides* (No. 44802), which is said to bear overstocking better than any other grass native there, are worth trying on the high-altitude pastures of the Pacific slope, where a ground cover which will hold moisture is so much needed.

We are so accustomed to connecting the flavor of onions with a round-bladed species of bulbous plant that Dr. Trabut's newly domesticated *Allium triquetrum*, with triangular leaves, strikes one as remarkable. The onion odor is scarcely perceptible in it, although as a vegetable it is very delicate indeed (No. 44793).